

POSITION STATEMENT

Civil Society at the Heart of One Sustainable Health A Call to Action 7 April 2026 – Lyon, France

This position statement was developed at a historic moment for One Health, as an official deliverable for the One Health Summit and part of France's G7 Presidency in 2026. The position statement aims to ensure that civil society is recognised as a cornerstone of this collective effort. It builds on our last publication, "Healthy Planet for Healthy Life!", which brought together key recommendations from OSH for All Lyon 2025.

A Defining Moment

The future of our shared planet stands at a defining moment. Across continents we are witnessing accelerating climate disruption, biodiversity loss, environmental contamination, strained food systems, emerging and endemic infectious diseases, water insecurity, widening inequalities and growing social instability. These crises are interconnected and mutually reinforcing. They reveal a structural reality: the health of humans, animals, plants and ecosystems is indivisible.

One Health and Planetary Health provide the scientific and ethical frameworks to understand this interdependence. The evidence is clear. What is now required is decisive implementation. The urgency is no longer conceptual; it is structural and operational.

At the same time, the international context is marked by troubling setbacks. Scientific expertise on climate and environmental issues is increasingly questioned, civil society organisations face shrinking civic space, regulatory constraints, funding cuts and, in certain cases, deliberate silencing. Expensive wars shift focus away from preserving life. These trends weaken governance and undermine the capacity to respond to systemic threats. Governments must therefore safeguard scientific integrity, protect freedom of expression and ensure that civil society organisations can operate independently and contribute effectively to transdisciplinary and cross sectoral strategies.

Civil Society: Legitimate and Essential

Civil society stands at the centre of the transformation. Its legitimacy is not in question. It derives its authority from communities, lived experience, professional expertise, Indigenous knowledge systems where institutions alone cannot reach. Farmers and food workers, human and animal health professionals, educators and scientists, art and cultural practitioners, women and youth movements, workers' organisations, Indigenous Peoples, consumer groups, environmental stewards and community leaders together form a powerful social infrastructure that connects global commitments to local realities.

Civil society is needed for strengthening the science–policy interface. Civil society organisations, scientific communities and local actors often serve as key intermediaries translating scientific evidence and data into policy-relevant knowledge and societal action.

Civil society is not a peripheral stakeholder. It is a partner in governance, a guarantor of trust and social cohesion, and an agent for change and resilience.

From Commitments to Measurable Action

The One Sustainable Health for All Conference held in Lyon in November 2025 made this clear: empowering civil society is necessary, but it is not sufficient. Structural integration, sustained investment and shared governance are essential.

We call upon governments, regional institutions, international organisations and the private sector to ensure sustainable financing and concrete, measurable political commitments in advancing One Health for the benefit of all. Funding must be predictable, long-term, and rooted in shared principles of threat prevention, crisis resilience, justice, and equity for transformative change.

Global, regional and national strategies must translate into local implementation. Declarations without delivery erode trust. Policies without adequate resourcing deepen inequality. One Health will ultimately be judged not by summit communiqués but by the outcomes for the benefit of families, communities, farms, cities, fauna and flora, and our shared ecosystem.

Community-led and local initiatives must be supported and scaled. Equitable access to resources must be ensured. Structural social and economic inequalities that leave certain populations disproportionately vulnerable to environmental degradation, infectious and non-communicable diseases, and food insecurity must be addressed directly. Without justice, there can be no resilience.

Accountability and Protection of Civic Space

An accountability framework must underpin this transition. It should be transparent, publicly accessible and regularly updated. It must measure cross-sectoral progress by linking environmental indicators, health outcomes – mental and physical - and social equity metrics. Civil society must be structurally involved in its design, monitoring and review.

Equally, governments must guarantee an enabling environment for all components of civil society, especially by protecting scientific expertise, enabling data convergence, fighting against disinformation, supporting civil society organisations and promoting civic participation which strengthens governance and enhances the effectiveness of policy implementation.

Transforming Food Systems and Addressing the Triple Environmental Crisis

Food systems lie at the heart of the One Health agenda. From soil and water stewardship to production, consumption and waste management, child labour to animal welfare, they shape planetary boundaries and public health alike. Unsustainable practices drive biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution and disease emergence. Inequitable systems perpetuate malnutrition in all its forms and undermine social cohesion.

Countries and communities should have the capacity to shape their own food and agricultural policies, strengthen local production systems and reduce structural dependencies that increase vulnerability to environmental, economic and health crises. Supporting food sovereignty contributes directly to resilient ecosystems, equitable livelihoods and improved outcomes within the One Health approach.

Civil society is already advancing agroecological approaches, strengthening local food networks, improving food safety and promoting nutritious diets at the human–animal–plant–environment interface. These solutions must be scaled through coherent policies, regulatory alignment and sustained investment.

More broadly, the triple environmental crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution demands integrated governance and the promotion of renewable energy technologies. Biodiversity, including the health and welfare of aquatic and terrestrial animal populations, wild or domesticated populations and that of pollinators, must be protected and restored. Freshwater security must be prioritised. Nature-based solutions must move from isolated pilots to systemic policy tools. Indigenous knowledge and intergenerational stewardship must be recognised as strategic assets in safeguarding planetary resilience.

Health equity

Health equity must remain central. Environmental degradation and climate shocks intensify vulnerability and deepen structural inequalities. A gender-responsive, geographically grounded and an overall intersectional lens must guide One Health policies from definition to implementation.

Civil society often provides the first line of prevention, early detection and community engagement—stepping in where governments or private actors may not reach. This includes surveillance for endemic or emerging disease threats and antimicrobial resistance. Strengthening animal health systems everywhere, and as close as possible to local communities, reinforces and enables the work of civil society, ensuring that disease detection and prevention are effective at the local level.

Beyond the Summit

The One Health Summit in Lyon on 7 April 2026 is a pivotal milestone. It must not become a symbolic apex followed by inertia. It should mark the beginning of sustained momentum. One Health must be embedded in national development plans, fiscal strategies, data integration, regional cooperation frameworks and international review processes beyond the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Civil society helps build trust in national and multilateral processes and turns global commitments into real actions locally.

A Strategic Choice

Policymakers face a choice at a time when scientific expertise is challenged in some contexts and civic space is shrinking in others. They may acknowledge civil society's value rhetorically while limiting its structural influence, or they may act decisively to embed civil society within governance systems and implementation frameworks.

Failure to move beyond recognition risks missing a historic opportunity to align political leadership with societal capacity to respond to systemic risks.

Our Commitment

We, the undersigned civil society organisations, stand ready to partner in implementation and to contribute constructively to policy design and delivery. We will continue to monitor, advocate, innovate and mobilise. We will continue to safeguard transparency and ensure that commitments translate into measurable outcomes across urban, peri-urban and rural landscapes alike.



The challenges before us are profound.
The cost of delay is measured in lives, livelihoods and ecosystems.
The capacity for transformation is equally real.

A healthy planet requires a healthy society.
A healthy society requires the full and legitimate participation of civil society.

Participation must be structural.
Financing must be sustainable.
Commitments must be measurable.
Accountability must be real.

The time for symbolic endorsement has passed.
The time for implementation is now.

Currently endorsed by 200+ organisations, including:

Networks:

Balkan One Health Network (BOHN) — Balkans
Comité français de l'UICN – France (81 member organisations)
Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) – International (145+ academic institutions/ organisations)
Coordination Sud – France / International (170+ NGOs)
European Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare (EUPAHW) – Europe (56+ organisations)
France Nature Environnement (FNE) – France (48 associations federating 6329 associations)
German Health Alliance (GHA) — Germany (110+ members)
Global Citizen — International (10+ million global citizens)
Global Health Advocates — France, Belgium / International
International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) – International (130+ member organisations / national associations)
International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation – International (90+ member organisations)
International Student One Health Alliance (ISOHA) – International
Jeunes Ambassadeurs pour l'Environnement (JAE)
One Sustainable Health for All Foundation — France / International (150+ member organisations)
Pasteur Network – International (32 institutes in 25 countries)
Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) – International (1,000+ partner organisations)
Preventing Zoonotic Disease Emergence (PREZODE) – International (230+ members)
Remapsen — Africa
Réseau des Associations de la Réserve de Biosphère Arganeraie (RARBA) — Morocco
Santé en Entreprise (SEE) International — International
Women's Major Group — International (500+ organisations)

Youth Health Organization — International

Supporting Organisations:

Action for Animal Health — International
 Action Contre la Faim (ACF-France) — France
 AFEM (Association des Femmes de l'Europe Méridionale) — France / Europe
 The African Climate Foundation — South Africa / Africa
 African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) — Kenya / Africa
 Agence Française de Développement (AFD) — France
 ANSES (Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire) — France
 Agronomes & Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (AVSF) — France
 Alliance Santé Planétaire — France
 Alliance Une Seule Santé Mali — Mali
 Alternatives Humanitaires — France
 Amel Association International — Lebanon
 Amref Health Africa France — France
 ANRS Maladies Infectieuses Émergentes (ANRS MIE) — France
 Art For Science — International
 Askaan Santé (ASKAAN) — Senegal
 Association Bétouré des Femmes — Burkina Faso
 Association EDUC-ACTION — Cameroon
 Association Galien Africa – Africa
 Association Kwata — French Guiana
 Association marocaine pour la protection de l'environnement et du climat (ASMAPEC) — Morocco
 Association pour la Protection de l'Environnement et le Développement Durable de Bizerte (APEDDUB) — Tunisia
 ASDEN (développement Nguendar) — Senegal
 Association Sénégalaise des Amis de la Nature — Senegal
 ATUTAX (Assoc. Tunisienne de Taxonomie) — Tunisia
 BA International — International
 Barwaqa Relief Organization — International
 BioPort — France
 Bridges – UNESCO (MOST Coalition) — International
 Brooke – Action for Working Horses and Donkeys — UK / International
 Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society — Cameroon
 Capsule d'Art — France
 CARAM Asia — Malaysia
 Center for Global Health (TUM Munich) — Germany
 CERAD (Center for Relief and Development) — International
 Centre-Alliance for Rare Diseases in Rwanda — Rwanda
 CSE (Centre de Suivi Écologique) — Senegal
 Centre Virchow-Villermé — France/Germany
 Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD) – France
 Les Centres GHESKIO — Haiti

Centre international de droit comparé de l'environnement (CIDCE)
 Conseil Économique Social et Environnemental (CESE) – France
 Climate Action Accelerator — Switzerland/International
 Climate x Health — International
 Compagnie Nationale du Rhône (CNR) – France
 Commission de l'Océan Indien – Indian Ocean Region
 Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED) — Switzerland/International
 Croix-Rouge Française – France
 Decentas — Cameroon
 Defend NHI Campaign — South Africa
 Deutscher Naturschutzring (DNR) — Germany
 Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) – International
 Earth Wake Entreprise – France
 Les Eco Maires — France
 Enda Santé – Senegal
 EHESP International – France
 Egregor — France / International
 European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN) – Europe
 European Health Forum Gastein – Austria / International
 Expertise France (Groupe AFD) – France
 Fédération des Conservatoires d'espaces naturels (FCEN) — France
 Fondation ARHM — France
 Fondation CMA CGM – France
 Fondation Edmus – France
 Fondation pour les Études et Recherches sur le Développement International (FERDi) – France
 Fondation evertéa – France
 Fondation de France – France
 Fondation GL Events – France
 Fondation Mérieux – France
 Fondation Pierre Fabre – France
 Fondation Véolia – France
 Foundation S – The Sanofi Collective — France / International
 French Water Partnership / Partenariat Français pour l'eau (FWP / PFE) – France
 France Villes & Territoires Durables – France
 France for One Health – France
 Friendship NGO – France, Bangladesh, Luxembourg
 Frontiers Research Foundation — Switzerland / International
 Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (FIOCRUZ) — Brazil
 Fundación Pondera — Spain
 Geneva Health Forum — Switzerland/International
 Geres – France / International
 Le Geste d'Or — France
 Ginger Group — France
 Girls not Brides — United Kingdom / International
 Gilles Leroux Industrie (GLi) — France
 Global Health Association of Kenya — Kenya

Handicap International - Humanity & Inclusion — France / International
 Health Diplomacy Alliance — Switzerland / International
 Humatem — France
 Impact Santé Afrique — Cameroon / Africa
 International Alliance for Biological Standardization (IABS) — Switzerland / International
 Institut du Développement Durable et des Relations Internationales (IDDRI) — France
 International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) — France / International
 International Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance Solutions (ICARS) — Denmark / International
 International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) — Austria / International
 International Youth Council-Yemen (IYCY) — Yemen
 Indian Institute of Science — India
 Initiatives pour l’Avenir des Grands Fleuves / Initiatives for the Future of Great Rivers —
 France/International
 Institut national de recherche pour l'agriculture, l'alimentation et l'environnement (INRAE) — France
 Institut Pasteur — France
 Institut Pasteur de Dakar — Senegal
 Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) — France
 International Science Council — International
 International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation — International
 Jane Goodall Institute — United States / International
 The Jena Declaration — Germany / International
 Jeunes Ambassadeurs pour l'Environnement (JAE) — France / International
 Jeunesse du Monde en Action — France / International
 The KCCR at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology — Ghana
 Korean Advocates for Global Health — South Korea
 Kosovo Interministerial Committee for One Health — Kosovo
 Lanka Fundamental Rights Organization — Sri Lanka
 Lecturio — Germany
 Lithuanian Medical Students Association (LiMSA) — Lithuania
 La Maison de l’Artemisia — France
 The Lancet One Health Commission — International
 Malaria Research & Training Center, Bamako — Mali
 Malteser International — Germany / International
 Mauritian Wildlife Foundation — Mauritius and the Outer Islands
 Mbou-Mon-Tour (MMT) — Senegal
 Médecins du Monde — France / International
 Medizinische Hochschule Brandenburg
 Metabolism of Cities Living Lab — International
 Nadia Umbrella Academy NPC — South Africa
 National Institute of Antimicrobial Resistance Research & Education (NIAMRRE) — United States
 Nigerian Women Agro Allied Farmers Association — Nigeria
 Nile Consulting — France
 Northern Frontier Medical Association (NOFMA) — Kenya
 Norwegian Veterinary Institute — Norway
 Nutriset — France
 Ocean & Climate Platform — France / International



One Health Alliance Jordan — Jordan
One Health Maroc — Morocco
One Health in Action Initiative — International
One Health Society — Tanzania
One Health Trust — United States, India / International
ONG Palmeirinha — Guinea-Bissau
Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria (PACCARB) — United States
Pak One Health Alliance — Pakistan
Paris Peace Forum — France/International
PASO Colombia (Sustainable Peace for Colombia) — Colombia
Physicians Association for Nutrition (PAN International) — International
Planet Score — France
PSL Université Paris — France
Première Urgence Internationale — France
Reborn from the Forest
Rend-Fort — France
Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences — China
Réseau Association Khnifiss — Morocco
Re(sources) Think Tank — France
Respect Ocean — France
Results Canada — Canada
Sabyinyo Community Livelihood Association (SACOLA) — Rwanda
Santé Mondiale 2030 — France
Santé Sud – Groupe SOS — France / International
Santé Terre Vivant — France
Savoir(s) Patient(s) — France
Sciensano — Belgium
Shanghai University, Research Center for Health and Wellbeing — China
Società Italiana di Medicina Ambientale (SIMA) — Italy
Solthis — France / International
Sorbonne Université — France
SOS SAHEL — International
Surfrider Foundation — France / International
Thriving Youth Leaders Initiative — Africa
Triangle Génération Humanitaire — France
Ubuntuness — International
Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar — Senegal
Université de Genève — Switzerland
Université de Montréal — Canada
Université Paris Cité — France
Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth (USJ) — Lebanon
University of Namibia (UNAM) — Namibia
VetAgro Sup — France
Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (VSF) International — International
Virchow Foundation — Germany
Virchow Prize — Germany



Vital Strategies — United States/International
Vivae — France
We are here Venice — Italy
Wildlife Impact Network — United States
Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) — United States / International
Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF) — France / Europe
World Climate Foundation — Denmark / International
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) International — International
Yenda Africa — Morocco / Africa
Zinvara Medicentre Foundation — Cameroon
Zoologisk Have København — Denmark

*To align with the remaining G7 activities in 2026, the position statement will remain open to endorse.
If you would like your organisation to be added to the signatories, please fill out the form here:
<https://forms.gle/QjG8NshmCC7kqRos9>*